REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed September 6, 2006, the Examiner took the following action: (1) rejected claims 1, 7, 10, 13, 17-18, 21, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Berry (U.S. 5,929,895); and (2) rejected claims 2-5, 8, 11-12, 14-15, and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Berry. The Examiner acknowledged, however, that claims 6, 9, 16, and 22-23 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of their respective base and intermediate claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Without comment as to the merits of the Examiner's rejections over Berry (U.S. 5,929,895), and without prejudice as to the filing of subsequent continuation or divisional applications, Applicant hereby proposes to amend the claims to place claims 1-24 in condition for allowance.

More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6, thereby placing claim 1 (and dependent claims 2-6) in condition for allowance.

Similarly, claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 9, thereby placing claim 7 (and dependent claims 8-9) in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 16, thereby placing claim 10 (and dependent claims 11-17) in condition for allowance.

Also, claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 22, thereby placing claim 18 (and dependent claims 19-24) in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-24 are now in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: _Nov. 3, 2006_   By: _Dale C. Barr_

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